

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A recombinant genetic construct encoding a dengue viral genome comprising a full-length genome of a dengue virus wherein the construct is modified at a 13-amino acid encoding region just proximal to the pr-M cleavage site which is devoid of negatively-charged amino acids and contains additional positively-charged amino acids relative to a wild-type dengue virus.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The genetic construct of claim 1 wherein said genetic construct comprises DNA.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A mutant dengue virus comprising a full-length genome of a dengue virus wherein the virus comprises a 13-amino acid-encoding region just proximal to the pr-M cleavage site which is devoid of negatively-charged amino acids and contains additional positively-charged amino acids relative to a wild type dengue virus.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A mutant dengue virus of claim 3 which contains less prM protein on viral envelope than the prototype dengue virus due to an enhanced internal cleavage of the prM protein.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A mutant dengue virus of claim 3 wherein the virus induces infected C6/36 mosquito cell line to fuse at the neutral pH to a greater extent than a wild type dengue virus.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A mutant dengue virus of claim 3 wherein the virus is exported out of the infected cells to a lesser extent than a wild type dengue virus, result in a lower virus titer in the culture medium.

Claim 7 (new) The genetic construct of claim 1 wherein said genetic construct encodes a mutant prM protein which substantially identical to the sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO: 1.